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EIGHTH YEAR.

WA-KEENEY, KANSAS, SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 1886.

NUMBER 7.

For President-Elect in 1888,  
**General John A. Logan**  
OF ILLINOIS.

A POST-OFFICE has been established at Gove, Gove county. F. Willerton is postmaster.

LARNED has an inventor by the name of Geo. M. Gillett. He has been awarded a patent on a pipe wrench.

CANDLEBY is the name of a newly established post-office in Ness county. The name of the postmaster is Chas. McCandlish.

M. S. KETCH, one of Lane county's oldest and liveliest citizens, has been appointed postmaster at Alamota. Long live the genial Ketch.

COMMISSIONER SPARKS, the National Republican suggests, ought to be transferred to a marine bureau. He has failed so egregiously in land decisions that it is time for him to try water.

It would be extremely difficult to find any finer specimens of denunciatory eloquence than the speeches that Senators George and Wallcut, of Mississippi, did not make on hearing of the Carrollton massacre.

WE notice, with pleasure, the appointment of Thomas Madigan as postmaster at Wallace. Mr. Madigan is a resident of Wallace since early in the seventies, and a more well-behaved gentleman does not live in these diggings.

THE Wa-Keeney World and Ellsworth Reporter are trying to decide which of their towns will be the state capital in case the state is divided. Seems as though they are both slightly previous in their efforts. (Philosophy Herald.) No; the Reporter wants Ellsworth to be made the capital of Kansas as she is. The World is not so big a hog. It wants Wa-Keeney to be made the capital of the new state of Western Kansas. If "slightly previous" means on time, count us in!

DEACON DOWNING, of Hays, is exercised just more than a trifle too much over the suffering which might overtake western Kansas by the surrender of governmental relations between eastern and western Kansas. It has been several years—several red-hot ones at that—since the east end of Kansas did anything much for western Kansas beyond attempting to strangle her. The World blushes—excuse us if we appear odd—that any one whose interests are identified with the west half of Kansas should question the capacity of the time-scarred veterans of this section to take care of themselves.

JUST ONE BOOM!  
J. M. Miller has returned from his trip to Ness county, and gave us a pleasant chat Tuesday morning. He thinks that country is only a few months ahead of us in development. (Leoti City (Wichita Co.) Standard.

Mr. Miller is off badly in his estimate. Ness county is just one boom ahead of Wichita county. Ness county received the benefit of the boom of 1879; Wichita county did not.

TOO SHORT A DISTANCE.

Brother Tilton, of the World, wants the state of Kansas divided into two separate states, that portion now known as the western portion to be formed into the state of "Western Kansas," and intimates that Wa-Keeney should be the capital of the new-born state. Why not split the difference, and make Hog Back the capital site?—Hays Ger. Am. Advocate.

Why split the difference on so short a distance? It would be too much like stopping at Hays City with it.

RAINFALL ENOUGH NOW.

The rush to the frontier, now the extreme western counties of the state, continues—prairie schooners going through every day, besides hundreds every week by rail. The rush of 1879 is exceeded in volume, and homesteads in eastern Colorado are now objects of pride to the newcomers from the crowded East. We hope that country will never again be depopulated as it was in '80 and '81, and yet it may be. Some day that will be a grand farming country, but it will be after the rainfall has increased about ten inches per annum, and how long it will take to get that increase is a question. (Kearney Independent.

Friend Lamb, you do injustice to your intelligence when you say that this will be a grand farming country "after the rainfall has increased about ten inches per annum." If you are sincere in the belief of anything approaching such an average increase, you have studied but to poor purpose the development of Kansas.

Some day this will be a grand farming country, but it will be after the leathery buffalo grass sod has given place to the brittle sod of the taller grasses. This advent of the farming era will take place here before the average annual rainfall has increased a single inch.

It is essential to the prosperity of western Kansas that its real conditions be understood.

#### TREE PLANTING.

This important subject is one that is too much neglected by the farmers in western Kansas, for there is no one thing that will do more to bring our country to a proper state of development. Situated as we are in a comparatively treeless country, many argue that it will do no good to plant trees, saying that they were intended to grow here that the all-wise Being would have placed them here, and that it is a waste of time, for they will not grow. This kind of argument is a kind of solace that some people pour over their laziness, but it won't hold good. We know from six years' experience in the West that trees will grow on these broad prairies. Almost any forest tree that is well taken care of will do well here. Cultivate them well, see that they are not killed by weeds, and they will grow. Of course a certain percentage of them will die; they will in any country. As we get more timber growing, our rainfall will increase. This is an undisputed fact. There is no better protection for stock in the winter than a good grove. It is nature's own protection. In conclusion, we would say plant trees this spring. (Editor Review.

The spirit of this article is noble. It applies with peculiar force to the necessities of western Kansas.

The general prevalence of prairie fires in this region for untold ages is, in our judgment, a sufficient reason for the scarcity of timber in western Kansas. Beyond the certain knowledge that our soil is friendly to the growth of many varieties of timber, the fact that in many localities timber in its wild state has continued successfully for growth satisfies us of the correctness of this position. The matted mass of buffalo-grass sod is the timber's great enemy in this section. This same sod is also the enemy of agriculture in western Kansas. When this sod is destroyed, and either the cultivated field or the sod of the taller grasses has taken its place, tree growing will be accomplished here without difficulty. This side of the realization of this change, provision must be made for the artificial watering of trees, or the laziness painted by the Review will continue to shine very largely.

The transfer of valley trees to uplands is a frequent source of failure to grow trees in this section.

It is not the increased rainfall which trees will bring that we need long for. They will accomplish little in this direction. They will do far more. They will assist in keeping our four-inch-at-a-time rainfalls from rolling nearly all at once to the sea. In this way the individual precipitations of rainfall will be so modified as to fall with greater frequency, and keep the ground in growing condition for a longer period in each year. As far as the number of inches of rainfall in any given year is concerned, we now receive enough for the purpose of agriculture. It is not more inches of rain which we need; it is a proper distribution of the rainfall.

Give western Kansas timber. No one who does not assist is a true friend of the country. Homes do not flourish in their happiest sense in localities where timber is not grown. The residence must be surrounded by the influence of timber if we would have it approachably perfect.

GRASSES AT MANHATTAN, KANSAS.  
Held over from Last Week.

It will be remembered that Prof. Shelton stated, at the institute last week, that tame grasses on the Agricultural College farm had suffered very seriously the past winter.

On general principles, those people who wish to know what estimate to place on the practicality of growing these grasses in western Kansas will be pleased to read this report, which we take from an article, in last week's Agricultural College Industrialist, headed "Winter Behavior of Tame Grasses."

Alfalfa.—In all exposed positions, and wherever it has been grazed closely last season, our alfalfa has been totally destroyed. In situations protected by snow drifts during the winter, and where the plants were protected by a late growth, even of weeds, they seem not to have suffered.

English Blue-Grass.—So far as we can discover, this sort has not been seriously injured.

Kentucky Blue-Grass.—This has not been damaged in the least.

Yucca Blue-Grass.—This new and most valuable sort, which already shows numerous blades six to ten inches in length, is quite uninjured.

Orchard-Grass.—For the first time, we believe, since the first settlement of this section of the state, this old and much-valued sort has winter-killed, and that almost to the verge of extermination.

Old meadows that have been subject to mowing and pasturing for years, and have never failed to produce abundantly, can now show scarcely a living plant of grass or clover, except in the occasional depressions found in the field or in those pastures protected by fences. As with some other sorts, we notice that the seedling of last year, which was neither pastured or mowed to any considerable extent, has suffered no injury. The same may be said of all protected situations, and generally where the plants went into winter quarters protected by a heavy after-growth.

Red Clover.—This old favorite has suffered very much, as orchard-grass has; in other words, scarcely any clover plants remain alive upon the farms.

Timothy.—Of this sort we have but

little, but this little seems to be quite uninjured. Tall Meadow Out-Grass.—It is difficult to state accurately the condition of the out-grass, as ours is generally more or less mixed with other sorts. Apparently, it has suffered seriously, but in a less degree than orchard-grass. These notes serve to show the deplorable condition of our tame-grass meadows. The damage done to these fields will amount to a good many hundred dollars; but worst of all, it will require at least three or four favorable seasons to bring our pasture field and meadows to their old productive condition. If asked the cause of all this damage, we can only offer an opinion, and that is that the sheet of quite heavy ice which covered our fields during all of January and much of February was the chief cause of all this loss.

A Word to Newcomers.  
Kansas Farmer.

The eastern half of Kansas is so well settled and so much experience has been had that stranger location need not have much trouble in getting along if they will look around a little and see what has been done and why. But it is different in the western part of the state where the population is nearly all new and but little has been done in the way of farming. Aside from the newness of the country and the limited knowledge of what can be done successfully, there are certain climatic differences that are too important to be overlooked. The rainfall in Ford county is very little more than one-half as great as it is in Douglas county. The records at Dodge and at Lawrence show this, and the time of observation has run over a period of at least ten years. That, to begin with, suggests different methods of agriculture in the two sections of the state. If twenty inches of rain water were well distributed during the year, it would be enough for all farm purposes, but it is not. There are seasons of drought occasionally that are not relieved by an extra rainfall three months before or after. There are men now living in the western counties, and living well, too, that went there ten or a dozen years ago and stayed and worked ahead, which proves that pluck and industry, with good common sense applied to work and methods will succeed in western Kansas as well as anywhere else. The experience of every one of those men is to the effect that if they had made the farmers in the old states understand and practice it, it will not pay. That is to say, the raising of wheat, corn, oats and other grains, with only stock enough to supply family wants, is not the kind of agriculture that is adapted to that part of the state. Stock and grain must be the leading item. Sorghum, rice, corn, sweet corn and similar crops do well, and there is nothing better for feed for sheep and cattle than they. With extra culture good vegetables are raised, and some wheat, corn and oats return fair yields. But they are not at all certain, while the others mentioned always do well.

These facts are sufficient, when known, to set intelligent newcomers in the western part of the state on the way to success. Don't start out with the intention of raising grain, merely make the subsidiary, but start out with the intention to raise sheep, cattle and horses. If you are poor, you will have less to start with, but rich or poor, start that way and you will win. A Gove county farmer, in tendering some advice to new settlers says, in the Grinnell Golden Belt: "If you have a little money and intend to 'stick,' build you a good old stone house partly in the bank and plaster it with native line so as to make it comfortable, and buy all the young cattle you can. Keep your credit good for a rainy day. If you have more money than you need for a year's living, build you a comfortable house and stable, get you a good team to improve your place, and buy what cattle you can. Do not depend on farming for a living for a dozen years. We know by experience that they do fail sometimes. Do not count on your cattle for a living if you have less than fifty head. But take in every day's work you can with your team or otherwise. Whether you have little or much money, never put over one-half into a house, for you can use it to a better advantage. Remember that you must live here a year without a crop to sell. So save your money and keep your credit good."

These words of advice are copied and endorsed by the Wa-Keeney World, Trego county. That is a beautiful and a very healthy country out there, capable of supporting a large population, and when it becomes well settled with an intelligent, thrifty people, it will be one of the most attractive regions on earth.

A too frequent desire to discharge the bladder if neglected, will result seriously, take Dr. J. H. McLean's Homoeopathic Liver and Kidney Balm.

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